

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MEDICAL PROVIDER ALERT

4 November 2001

UPDATE TO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND URGENT CARE CENTERS REGARDING:

- **CLINICAL EVALUATION OF PERSONS WITH POSSIBLE INHALATIONAL ANTHRAX**
- **CLINICAL EVALUATION OF PERSONS WITH POSSIBLE CUTANEOUS ANTHRAX**

The two figures which follow this page were extracted from:

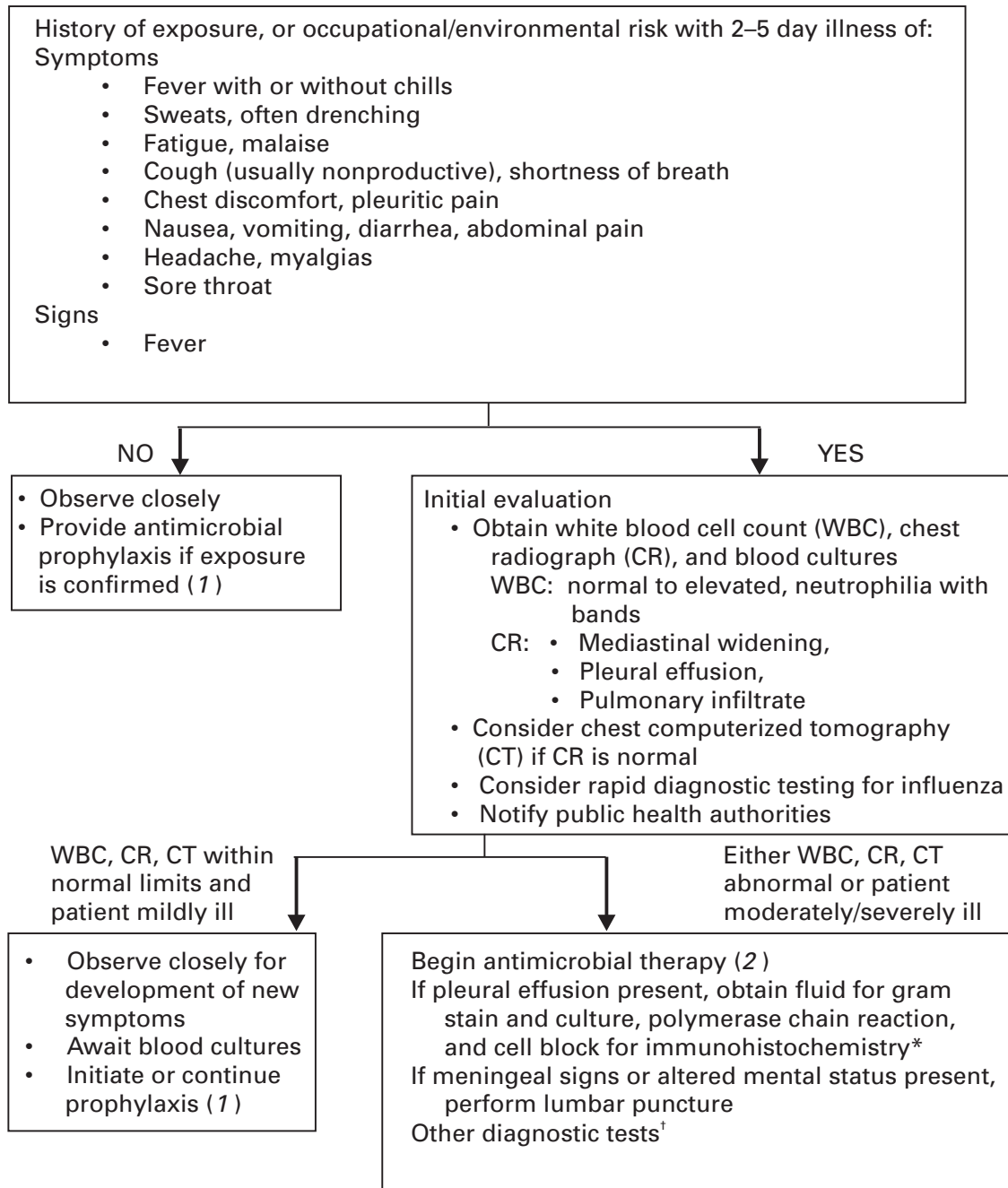
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Update: investigation of bioterrorism-related anthrax and interim guidelines for clinical evaluation of persons with possible anthrax. *MMWR* 2001;50(43):941-147.

For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5043a1.htm>

Update: Investigation of Anthrax — Continued

FIGURE 2. Clinical evaluation of persons with possible inhalational anthrax



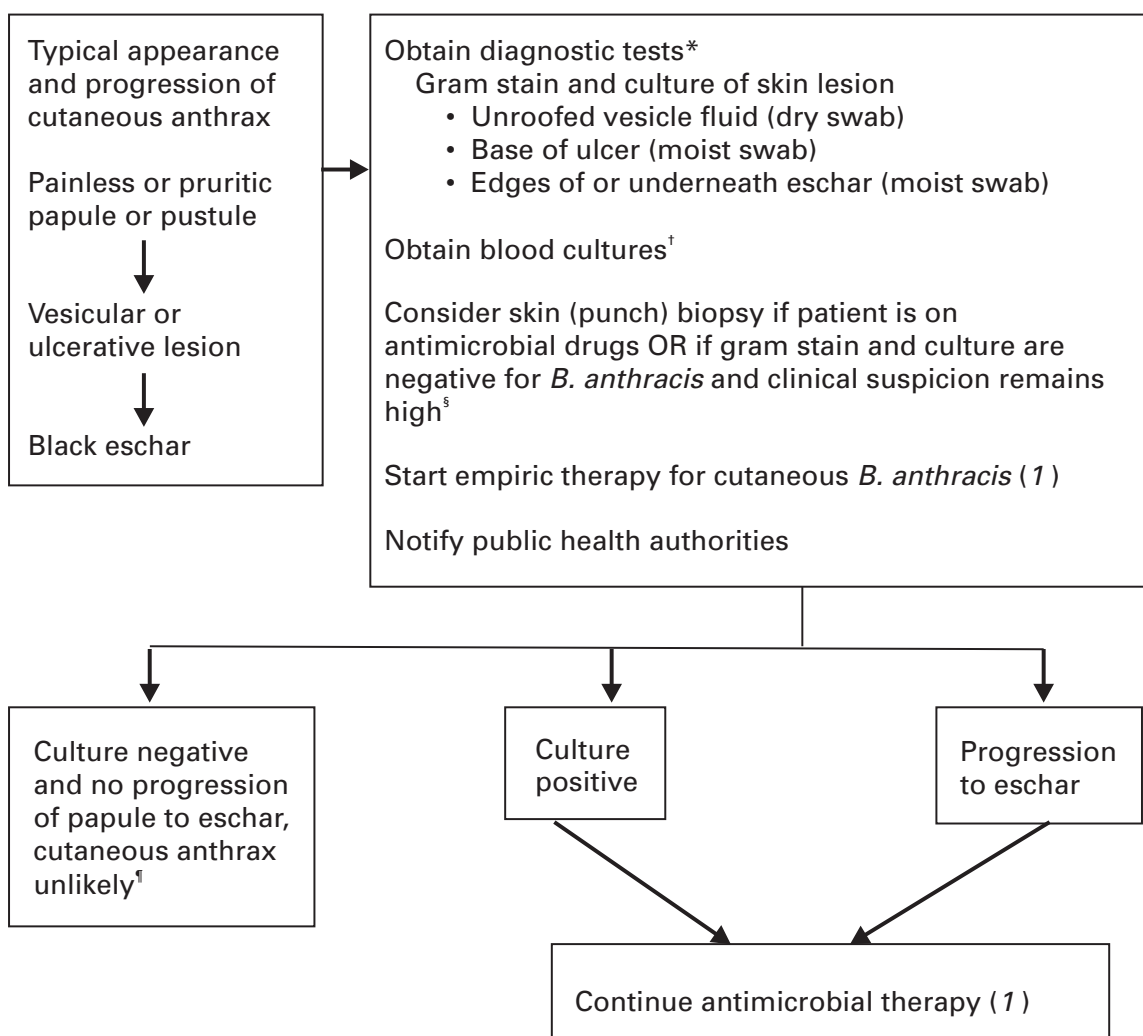
* Available through CDC or LRN. Cell block obtained by centrifugation of pleural fluid.

† Serologic testing available at CDC may be an additional diagnostic technique.

References

1. CDC. Update: investigation of anthrax associated with intentional exposure and interim public health guidelines, October 2001. MMWR 2001;50:889–93.
2. CDC. Update: investigation of bioterrorism-related anthrax and interim guidelines for exposure management and antimicrobial therapy, October 2001. MMWR 2001;50:909–19.

Update: Investigation of Anthrax — Continued

FIGURE 3. Clinical evaluation of persons with possible cutaneous anthrax

* Serologic testing available at CDC may be an additional diagnostic technique for confirmation of cases of cutaneous anthrax.

† If blood cultures are positive for *B. anthracis*, treat with antimicrobials as for inhalational anthrax (1).

§ Punch biopsy should be submitted in formalin to CDC. Polymerase chain reaction can also be done on formalin-fixed specimen. Gram stain and culture are frequently negative for *B. anthracis* after initiation of antimicrobials.

¶ Continued antimicrobial prophylaxis for inhalational anthrax for 60 days if aerosol exposure to *B. anthracis* is known or suspected (2).

Reference

1. CDC. Update: investigation of bioterrorism-related anthrax and interim guidelines for exposure management and antimicrobial therapy, October 2001. MMWR 2001;50:909–19.
2. CDC. Update: investigation of anthrax associated with intentional exposure and interim public health guidelines, October 2001. MMWR 2001;50:889–93.